Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic
Supporting the Trident Submarine Fleet
Stealthy and mobile, the U.S. Navy’s fleet of Trident II OHIO-class submarines patrols the world’s oceans. Always on guard, they carry the formidable Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM), a cornerstone of the nation’s strategic deterrent. When they deploy into the waters of the Atlantic, they embark from Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia – the fleet’s eastern seaport.

At the base, the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic (SWFLANT) serves a vital role in supplying strategic missiles to the submarine fleet safely, efficiently, on schedule. Under the leadership of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, SWFLANT represents a partnership between the skilled men and women of the U.S. Navy and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, the Navy’s prime contractor for the Fleet Ballistic Missile for more than 50 years.

At SWFLANT, Lockheed Martin and its subcontractors conduct multiple operations related to maintaining the reliability of the Trident missile. Our responsibilities encompass the complete life cycle of the missile system from assembly, test and packaging of the D5 missiles to processing of the missiles and reentry bodies. When submarines return from patrol, Lockheed Martin engineers and technicians test, maintain and recertify the missiles as needed. We also support arms control inspections, flight testing and flight test data collection, and perform all required equipment maintenance and calibration, engineering services and production support. In all that we do at SWFLANT, Lockheed Martin is dedicated to providing superior support to the U.S. Navy’s critical strategic missions in the 21st century.

Supporting a New, Transformational Conventional Mission

In addition to strategic submarines, the Lockheed Martin SWFLANT team also supports the Navy’s conventional, guided missile submarine fleet. To address new challenges to U.S. national security, the Navy began to modify selected Trident ballistic missile submarines to guided missile submarines in 2002.

Each of these submarines has the capability to carry conventional Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and support a large team of special operations forces. In 2007, Lockheed Martin SWFLANT personnel onloaded Tomahawks to one of the first of these submarines, USS Florida, whose crew conducted four successful test flights.
When Naval Submarine Support Base Kings Bay was activated in 1978, Lockheed Martin was there. We worked closely with the Navy from shore facilities and submarine tenders to supply missiles to Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines, the precursors of today's Trident fleet.

In 1982, when development of the higher-energy propellant of the Trident II D5 missile required more extensive facilities, SWFLANT was born, and the base was renamed Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. Today the working relationship between our managers, engineers and technicians and the Navy is as strong as ever. About 500 Lockheed Martin employees and 150 other contractor personnel deliver an extraordinary breadth of capabilities, including:

- Assembly of Trident II D5 strategic missiles
- Processing of D5 missile components for storage and delivery to the fleet
- Receipt of payloads, with custody and accountability maintained through rigorous controls
- Mate/demate of payloads
- Storage, maintenance and fleet support for submarine-launched Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles
- D5 missile maintenance, including modification, repair, test and recertification
- Maintenance and calibration of submarine base equipment and facilities
- Flight test preparation and data collection support
- Arms control inspection support
- Facility and operational services for strategic weapons security.

At the end of 2008, SWFLANT opened the Missile Integrated Support Facility, providing a new capability to test and repair missile electronics assemblies. This work, an important part of the D5 Life Extension program, will ensure that missiles continue to be available for the service life of the Trident submarine.

At SWFLANT and other FBM facilities, the Navy–Lockheed Martin team sustains a high level of performance by conducting business according to a set of shared values, principles and tools proven over five decades. The FBM way of doing business includes (1) common priorities and goals, (2) open and trusted communications – surfacing problems early and solving them together, (3) a focus on time-tested solutions, (4) disciplined technical and business management controls, and (5) commitment to maintaining a skilled FBM workforce.

In early 2009, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay celebrated the 1,000th deterrent patrol of the OHIO-class submarine fleet, an achievement 27 years in the making.

The close partnership between the Navy and Lockheed Martin has continued through every FBM generation, from the 1950s' Polaris A1 to today's Trident D5.

Lockheed Martin employees also support the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC), located in Bangor, Washington. More than 2,600 Lockheed Martin FBM personnel serve at Navy facilities in Florida, California, Utah, Virginia and the United Kingdom, ensuring that the same standards are maintained throughout every aspect of the program, from design, development and production to testing and operation. Their guiding philosophy remains: “We never forget who we’re working for.”
The Trident D5: Proven, Reliable, with Unequaled Test Flight Performance

In 1960, a Navy–Lockheed Martin team accomplished a feat many had thought impossible: launching a ballistic missile from a submerged submarine. Since then, the fleet ballistic missile program has spanned six generations, culminating in the powerful Trident II D5.

First appearing in 1990, D5 missiles are now deployed on 14 Trident OHIO-class submarines.

SWFLANT also supports the United Kingdom’s deployment of the D5 missile onboard four Vanguard-class submarines.

The three-stage, solid-propellant, inertial-guided Trident II D5 missile can travel a nominal range of 4,000 nautical miles and carries independently targeted reentry vehicles. Each missile weighs approximately 130,000 pounds.

Having conducted more than 125 successful test launches with the D5, the Navy has achieved a record of reliability unmatched by any other large ballistic missile.

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The Navy–Lockheed Martin SWFLANT team has met every missile onload requirement for submarine deployment on time. One key to this excellent performance is systems integration.

Successful systems integration, a hallmark of the design and development of the D5, is also a critical requirement for supporting the submarine fleet. In concert with Navy leadership, Lockheed Martin engineers have devised a methodology that incorporates a complex network of systems and services into a smooth assembly, integration and test operation, ensuring that Trident submarines embark on schedule supplied with missiles that meet the highest standards of weapon system safety and reliability. When the submarines return to Kings Bay, the Lockheed Martin team continues missile maintenance and monitoring until the missiles are retired from service.

Mission Success and Operational Excellence Through Rigorous Systems Integration

Safety First

At SWFLANT, safety is at the forefront of every process, every decision. The facility has been carefully designed with special magazines and equipment, security protocols, and adequate distances for the safe handling of explosives.

The Lockheed Martin team takes great pride in our safety record at SWFLANT. As with every other aspect of missile operations, we surface any problems or potential problems early with the Navy and solve them together, seeking long-term solutions.

From a workplace safety perspective, the team achieved a first in 2007, with zero “day away” cases due to accident or injury.
An Enduring Partnership

SWFLANT is a world-class facility dedicated to maintaining our nation’s deterrent capability. Under the leadership of the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs, and with Lockheed Martin as prime contractor, SWFLANT will continue to support the Trident fleet. This partnership will ensure the safety, readiness and reliability of the fleet ballistic missiles and Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles, adapting to new missions driven by the changing needs of U.S. national security.